

The Southeast News

OF, BY AND FOR CONGREGATIONAL CHRISTIAN CHURCHES

VOLUME VIII, NO. 7

MAY 1960



PILGRIM CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH

Birmingham, Alabama



Rev. Lawrence M. Upton Elected Board Secretary

The Reverend Lawrence M. Upton, New York, has been elected a secretary of the Board of Home Missions of the Congregational Christian Churches. He is the first secretary for health and welfare in the Board's division of church extension and evangelism.

The announcement was made by the Board's executive vice-president, Rev. Dr. Truman B. Douglass, who said Mr. Upton's primary responsibility will be "the correlation of information about health and welfare agencies of the Congregational Christian Churches and their agencies."

Dr. Douglass said that Mr. Upton "will counsel with welfare institutions and agencies related to the Congregational Christian tradition, he will serve as liaison between Congregational Christian churches and social workers, and he will develop programs in the field of the churches and social welfare, geriatrics, mental health and institutional services."

Mr. Upton comes to his new position from the pastorate of the new United Church of Christ in West Hartford, Connecticut. Prior to that, from 1952 to 1959, he was director of Hartford's Congregational city missionary society. From 1957 to 1959 he also was executive secretary of Church Homes, Incorporated, a subsidiary of the Christian Activities Council which provides housing for elderly persons.

Mr. Upton served five years as a chaplain in the Air Force during World War II. He saw service in Okinawa and the Philippines. After World War II he became field secretary of the Congregational Christian Churches' Committee for War Victims and Reconstruction.

Besides the West Hartford pastorate, Mr. Upton has served Congregational Christian churches in Boulder, Colorado; Brainerd, Minnesota, and Chicago.

A native of Montana, he was graduated from Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa, in 1937. He received his ministerial training at Chicago Theological Seminary, Garrett Biblical Institute in Evanston, Illinois, and Union Theological Seminary in New York City. He was ordained into the Congregational Christian ministry in 1940.

Mr. Upton has been a member of the Board of Home Missions' advisory committee on the urban church, and of the joint committee on the urban

Pilgrim Congregational Church Consecrates Its New Building

(REPRINT FROM UNITED CHURCH HERALD, APRIL 14, 1960)

In a Southern city very much in today's news, a new church building opened its doors on March 6. Pilgrim Congregational Church in Birmingham, Alabama (founded in 1903), was consecrated on the first Sunday of March with Dr. Stanley U. North, general secretary of the Division of Church Extension and Evangelism of the CC Board of Home Missions, preaching the dedication sermon.

The new building of contemporary design is built to accommodate a full program of worship, education, and fellowship. It houses a small chapel, a sanctuary seating 300, a large fellowship hall, administrative offices, complete educational wing and choir room.

Fritz Woehle of Birmingham, the architect, has succeeded skillfully in combining simplicity with flexibility as the keynote of the structure. The symbolism in the church is very subtle. The main unit is unusual, having three roof-levels with equilateral triangles appearing throughout two of the levels, symbolic of the Trinity. The exterior is very striking. The high roof over the sanctuary and fellowship hall is constructed with exposed vents with suspended timber decking, which forms a floating, cathedral-like ceiling more than four stories high. The roof is beautiful blue vinyl plastic-coated sheet steel. The interior and exterior walls throughout the building are mostly of clear glass, some of which is slightly tinted or opaque.

The chancel wall, forming a reredos, is of native mountain stone and is designed to form a smaller equilateral

Dr. and Mrs. Douglas Horton visited Atlanta Central, Birmingham Pilgrim, Brookmeade United, Chattanooga Pilgrim, and Knoxville First churches while in the Southeast Convention area.

church for the United Church of Christ.

He has been a member of the Hartford Council of Churches' department of religion and television and was convener of the clergy-psychiatry study group of the Hartford Mental Health Association.

Mr. Upton and his wife, the former Paula Hamblen, are parents of two daughters.

triangle as background for the free-standing marble-topped communion table, the pulpit and the lectern. Polished terrazo floors and indirect lighting in the chapel, sanctuary, dining room, and hearth room are also distinctive in design.

The educational wing has a flat roof and continuous covered walks join the high-roofed structure on each side of the building. There are no steps into the building since it is constructed on one level. The church is situated on a spacious seven-acre wooded lot.

The new Pilgrim Congregational Church in Birmingham speaks eloquently of the traditions of the Congregational Christian Fellowship. But inasmuch as it is a contemporary building the following may be useful in interpreting some of its distinctive features.

The sanctuary is a divided-chancel design. The platform is free-standing. There is space for the choir on the same level as the congregation, which sits around it and therefore around the communion table as well. There is no communion rail since it is superfluous in a nonliturgical church.

The pulpit, lectern and communion table top are made of Alabama marble and can be moved, enabling the various pieces to be arranged to meet particular requirements, or be removed entirely to give space for religious drama or choral programs. The design of the pews is in keeping with the simplicity of those church benches of old New England meeting-houses, although they are cushioned, open and very comfortable. A large steel cross, approximately 30 feet high, is the focal point of the church.

United Church Herald takes this opportunity to congratulate the minister, the Rev. Clarence W. Baldwin, the officers and all members of Pilgrim Congregational Church on the completion of their new edifice and to wish for them years of continuing growth and Christian service in a great and fast-developing Southern city.

Rev. David H. Sandstrom, Minister of the Missions Council, preached at Circular Congregational Church, Charleston, S. C., on Sunday, March 27.

Fifth Ecumenical Institute Scheduled July 17-22, 1960

"Our Unity in the Community" will be the theme of the Fifth Ecumenical Institute for Christian leaders to be held at beautiful Blue Ridge Assembly, N. C., July 17-22, 1960. This institute is being sponsored by the Southern Office of the National Council of Churches.

The purpose of the Institute is to manifest oneness in Jesus Christ as Divine Lord and Saviour; to strengthen understanding and promote cooperation among denominations; to find ways of doing things together as churches and church people, to provide inspiration, fellowship, and ecumenical education.

A giant Bible Hymn Festival will open the Institute on Sunday evening, July 17th. Church choirs from the vicinity of Black Mountain and Asheville will comprise the Festival Choir. Mr. Allan Guy, Professor of Music at Montreat College, will direct the choir with the assistance of other directors. Dr. W. D. Weatherford, founder of Blue Ridge Assembly, will bring the message and preach on the topic "Our Unity in the Community."

Bible study will be the heart of the Institute. Bible lectures will be given daily by Professor Franklin H. Littell, Professor of Church History at Candler School of Theology, Emory University. Dr. Littell will base his lectures on the book of Ephesians and relate them to the Institute theme. Dr. Littell has lived in Germany and become associated with the Kirchentag movement. A "Lecturer's Adversary" will play the role of a Devil's Advocate.

Workshops tentatively scheduled are: Use and Understanding of the Bible; Christian Missions; The Church-Children and Youth in Today's Community; Christian Responsibility for Freedom; Training Council Officers and Leaders; Depth Bible Study; The Ministry of Lay People; Churches and Public Schools; Meeting Teenage Problems—for Teenagers; Town and Country Churches.

Leaders engaged in church and council work are urged to attend, but all who are interested in the ecumenical movement are welcome. This institute will be interdenominational and interracial. The registration fee is \$5.00 if paid by June 1st, \$6.00 if paid after June 1st. Service fee, room and board will be payable in addition to the re-

Pilgrim Circuit Rider Writes Of Experiences

Readers of The Southeast News will rejoice that Leila Andreson has written her life story to date, under the title "Pilgrim Circuit Rider." It will be published by Harper's and is scheduled to appear in April. The title of her book is that by which she is so well known over our own country, and in far corners of other countries as well.

As a child, hers was a "twelve mile world", with never an inkling that one day it would become world-wide. High school in the neighboring county seat town opened doors into a larger world of people and ideas. Impossible though it seemed, college became the next doorway that opened out into a still larger world.

So this fascinating story begins. It is a story of opening doorways, some of them in incredible places and circumstances that came about in strange and providential ways. It is a story, too, of utter devotion, the giving of oneself unreservedly to the task and the persons immediately at hand.

The early years of study, teaching and statewide travel among small churches became the foundation experience for service as the Pilgrim Circuit Rider among hundreds of our churches "off the beaten track." She traveled in a specially equipped station wagon as the representative of the Division of Christian Education of the Board of Home Missions. Her task was to serve all the varied needs of each church.

These chapters demonstrate her practical, to-the-point approach. "Teaching", "Leadership", "Methods," come alive through true life illustrations.

This book is filled with an infectious zest and enthusiasm. Not one to talk in pious phrases, she has spoken with her life and her work.

Here is a book to enjoy, to read with wonder that one small person could accomplish so much!

Registration fee. Family accommodations are available at Christmount Assembly. Please write Mrs. H. H. Triplett, Corbin, Kentucky, for room reservations and family accommodations.

Mail registration fee to: Rev. J. Edward Lantz, Director, Ecumenical Institute, 63 Auburn Avenue, N. E., Atlanta 3, Georgia. Please make check payable to the National Council of Churches.

Rev. Melvin Dollar Accepts New Church

Rev. Melvin Dollar, who has served as Associate Superintendent of the Southern Convention since 1958, has resigned effective May 1. He is to become pastor of the Mission Village Church, San Diego, California.

The Mission Village Church is a new project sponsored jointly by the Evangelical and Reformed and Congregational Christian Churches. Because of the comity agreement in California this and the Lutheran church will be the only ones serving a community of approximately 10,000 people, according to Mr. Dollar. This is one of the "high potential" churches of the Southern California Conference, and is one of more than fifty new projects that Conference hopes to establish within the next eight to ten years.

How To Order A Share Parcel

Some of you heard our Congregational Christian missionary, Mrs. Loy Long, speak about SHARE parcels which can be ordered from India. A SHARE parcel contains an assortment of 14 or 16 articles, including handwoven textiles, linens, brass, silver, crocodile leather, rosewood, elephant grass, sisal fiber, buffalo horn, and Indian character dolls. If you wish to order, send your personal check on a local bank for \$25.00, by registered air mail, to CRAFTS SALES CENTRE, Nagpada Neighbourhood House, New Nagpada Road, Byculla, Bombay 8, India.

This Crafts Sales Centre in Bombay was started by Mr. and Mrs. Loy Long in 1951, to assist local and upcountry industries in marketing their handicrafts. It serves about forty-four industrial welfare centers throughout India which employ hundreds of the neediest people in the land. It is a part of the program of the Nagpada Neighbourhood House, a social settlement managed by our Congregational Christian Mission in Western India.

Allow about three months for this parcel to reach you. When your parcel arrives at your local Post Office you may have to pay customs charges. These may be as much as \$3.50.

This is an adventure in sharing. Share your money with the artisans of India and they will share with you their unique and beautiful handwork.

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DATES TO REMEMBER

Young People

June 17-25—National PF-YF, Elmhurst
June 26 - July 2 — Kentucky-Tennes-
see Senior High Conference, Cross-
ville
June 19 - July 2 —Work Camp, Frank-
linton Center, Bricks, N. C.
July 3-16 — Work Camp, Southern Un-
ion College
July 17-23 — Kentucky - Tennessee
Junior High Conference, Crossville
July 31-Aug. 6 — Alabama-N. W. Flor-
ida Summer Conference, Southern
Union College
August 14-20 — Georgia-S. Carolina
Summer Conference, Roosevelt
State Park
August 25-Sept. 1 — United Campus
Christian Fellowship, Stephens
College, Mo.

General

May 27-29 — Southeast Convention
Churchmen's Fellowship Retreat,
Cheaha State Park, Anniston, Ala.
July 6-8 — General Synod, Cleveland,
Ohio
July 15-16 — Georgia-South Carolina
Women's Retreat
July 18-22 — Southern Social Action
Institute, Blue Ridge Assembly
July 20 — Kentucky-Tennessee Wo-
men's Fellowship Retreat
July 22-23 — Alabama-N. W. Florida
Women's Fellowship Retreat
August 11-14 — Leadership Growth
Workshop, Southern Union
August 14-18 — Leadership Growth
Workshop, Pine Mountain, Ga.
August 19-21 — Leadership Growth
Workshop, Chattanooga, Tenn.

Resolutions Adopted By Annual Meeting

1. Whereas the delegates to the Eighth Annual Meeting of the Southeast Convention of Congregational Christian Churches have been so graciously entertained by the Congregational Christian churches of Andalusia, First and Andalusia, Antioch, BE IT RESOLVED that we thank most heartily the pastors, Rev. J. Kermit Harris and Rev. Warren A. Blankenhorn, and all members and friends of their churches for the hospitality shown and for the many services given to make this meeting a success.
2. Whereas we have witnessed an advance in our program of progress during the past year,
BE IT RESOLVED that we express our appreciation:
First, to our Moderator, Rev. Guy L. Colbert, who presides with dignity and order;
Second, to Superintendent James H. Lightbourne Jr., who so ably presents through his "sense of humor" the critical need for courage in facing the social implications of our Christian calling;
Third, to Rev. Annie R. Campbell, who ever keeps us alert to the Christian Educational opportunities at hand.
3. Whereas our Chaplain, Rev. A. Ray Meserve, having led us into the presence of God, has inspired us to better churchmanship,
BE IT RESOLVED that we devote our lives to the tasks awaiting the church today.
4. Whereas, the Rev. Frederick A. Meyer has presented us with the purpose and progress of the drive of the Christian Higher Education Fund,
BE IT RESOLVED that we cooperate fully with our Convention Christian Higher Education Fund Committee to go beyond our goal of \$25,000.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we express our appreciation to Rev. R. Hugh Lasseter and others who have given time and effort in the ed-

ucational phase of this program.

5. Whereas, our keynote speaker, Dr. Truman B. Douglass, gave us a clear insight into many forces on our American scene that are changing the needs of its peoples, and likewise, he gave many forthright suggestions of what the church can do,
BE IT RESOLVED that we face the future in a Christian spirit as we help man to find himself, his value, his dignity, which can be truly found only when man beholds himself in the likeness of God.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we renew and deepen our conviction of the POWER of the Holy Spirit enabling us to "love the brother God has given us, whether we like him or not, and deal with him and his problems in accordance with the golden rule given by our Lord and Master."

HELP WANTED?

Do you want to have Student Summer Service Workers come and help conduct a Vacation Bible School at your church this summer? If you do, please write the Southeast Convention at once. We need to know right away.

HERE AND THERE

DR. TRUITT TO RESIGN

The Reverend John G. Truitt has announced his resignation as Superintendent of the Congregational Christian Home for Children, Elon College, N. C., effective not later than July 30, 1960. Dr. Truitt has given effective leadership to the Home for the past 11 years. The institution presently is involved in a campaign to raise \$200,000 for new buildings and improvements. At the latest report the goal is in sight. The successful completion of the campaign will be a fitting climax to his years of dedicated service in this capacity.

* * * *

Rev. Frederick A. Meyer, Central Regional Director of CHEF, spoke at the Sunday morning service of Pilgrim Church, Birmingham, on April 3.

* * * *

Dr. Walter A. Graham spoke at a joint meeting of the Daisy and Soddy Churches on Wednesday night, March 30.

SUPERINTENDENT'S SCHEDULE

May 8 — Antioch, Roanoke
May 22 — Center, Atlanta; Graduation, Roanoke, Ala.
May 23 — Hartford Seminary, Conn.
May 24 — Race Relations Com., N. Y.
May 27-29 — Churchmen's Fellowship Retreat
May 30 — S. E. Regional Meeting Program Committee, Raleigh, N. C.

Women's Fellowships Hold Spring Rallies

Our Women's Fellowship 'Spring' Rallies began soon after our heaviest snows had melted. While our missionary speaker, Mrs. Loy Long, did not get to see the dogwood in bloom, she added color to our meetings with her Share Parcel articles which she put on display wherever she spoke. Some articles were made of sisal fiber, through the use of which she started a new industry in India. Other articles were of brass, rhinoceros horns or hooked rug designs, from missions of many denominations all over India. Mrs. Long served in India during famine, during war time, during the occupation or rule of the British and during their withdrawal. She saw many changes.

The first Women's Fellowship Rally, Central Georgia, was held at United Church, LaGrange, Georgia, with Mrs. Troy Wood of Richland presiding. The following officers were elected for the coming two years: president, Mrs. Mary S. Daniel; vice-president, Mrs. Maynard Burnham; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. Guy Bass.

The North Georgia WF Rally was held on a Sunday afternoon at Center Church in Atlanta. Mrs. Grace Puckett presided. It was also election time for them and they chose the following: president, Miss Frances Exum; vice-president, Mrs. Cleo Gilstrap; secretary, Mrs. C. L. Percy; treasurer, Mrs. Roy Martin.

South Georgia women met at Vanceville, near Tifton, and Mrs. Lloyd Vickers presided. They elected and installed the following officers: president, Mrs. H. V. Boruff; vice-president, Mrs. Tawell Courson; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. M. R. Furr.

North Alabama women met in the new church building of Pilgrim Church in Birmingham. Mrs. Locke White presided and the following officers were elected: president, Mrs. Murray Trimble; vice-president, Mrs. S. A. Price; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. Charles Feasel.

East Alabama Women met at Lanett Congregational Christian Church. Mrs. Harvetta Barr presided. This group probably had about the largest number in attendance, as it includes more churches than any other association.

First Church at Andalusia entertained the South Alabama and West Florida Women's Fellowship Rally just one week prior to acting as host to the

Churchmen's Fellowship Holds Annual Banquet

The Southeast Convention Churchmen's Fellowship annual banquet was held in connection with the annual meeting of the convention.

Following a delicious and sumptuous charcoal broiled steak dinner, Judge Leand Engor, Juvenile Judge of Covington County, Alabama, was introduced by Mr. Arthur Wallace. Judge Engor welcomed the Fellowship to Covington County and told some of the history of the locality and highlighted the present industry. He also gave a most inspiring talk on "The Abundant Life."

The banquet was held at the REA Lodge on the banks of Conecuh River.

The following officers were elected: President — W. Pressley Ingram; Vice-President — Bobby Jack Pemberton;

Secretary-Treasurer — Sam Thomason.

An offering amounting to \$56.26 was received to be used for the expenses of the Fellowship and for its projects.

The committees will be appointed by the president at a later date.

Seventy-two men were present for the banquet.

Southeast Convention. Their next Rally will be held at Blackwood Church, Headland.

Central Alabama met at East Tallassee Church. Miss Willa Durden presided at this meeting. This is probably numerically the smallest Association of all, but the spirit was good and the program vital.

Kentucky-Tennessee Women's Rally was held at Daisy, Tenn., with Mrs. Claude Pendergrass presiding. The program was adjusted so that Mrs. Long could leave early to stop by and visit one of her children and still get back home in time for the chistening of her grandchild. She was presented with a gift from this Rally, a fitting close to her ten days in our area of the Southeast Convention.

Southern Union College sent representatives to all of the Women's Rallies this year. Mrs. Edw. Askren, the Ga. - S. C. Women's President, attended part of the Georgia Rallies. Miss Ellen Hull, the Ala.-N. W. Fla. president, spoke at most of the Ala. Rallies. Mrs. Malcolm Fabian, originally from St. Paul, Minnesota, was a guest speaker at the Central Georgia meeting.

Convention Women's Fellowship Banquet

The Southeast Convention Women's Fellowship had its annual meeting at First Church, Andalusia, with a banquet. Mrs. Raymond Berry, chairman of the SEC-WF Christian Education Department, was in charge of carrying out the theme on Christian Higher Education. Each District President was asked to act as hostess at a table. She had been assigned a certain college to use as the theme for her table decorations and to gather information.

Mrs. Jettie Logan, our SEC-WF president, presided and kept things moving from the beginning, even calling on the secretary for her 'condensed' minutes. Goals were adopted for the Southeast Convention Women's Fellowship

The secretary and treasurer, Miss Dora Brackin, was re-elected. The other officers are expected to fill out the second half of their two-year terms. President, Mrs. Jettie Logan; vice-presidents, the state presidents; the area and work chairmen — Evangelism and Spiritual Life, Mrs. Clarence Baldwin; Stewardship and Woman's Gift, Mrs. Alfred Adams; Missionary Education, Mrs. Ray Miller; Friendly Service, Mrs. Emmett Bailey; Christian Education, Mrs. Raymond Berry; and Christian Social Action, Mrs. Fred Muhleman.

The following song was written especially for this banquet meeting to promote CHEF, Christian Higher Education Fund. It was sung to the tune of Three Blind Mice. Try it!

Send us help,
Send us help,
Through your drive,
Through your drive,
Make your pledges to C - H - E - F,
So you'll think of others more than yourself,
So it is CHEF.

Noted Correspondent Attends Convention

Mr. Harrison E. Salisbury, a reporter for *The New York Times*, was present for the Annual Meeting of the Southeast Convention and reported Dr. Truman Douglass' address to his newspaper.

A leading reporter for the *Times*, Mr. Salisbury served for several years in Moscow and has written a definitive book on Russia. In 1955 he won the Pulitzer Prize for International Reporting.



REV. W. RAYMOND BERRY
Moderator



MR. ALLEN G. SAUNDERS
Moderator-Elect



MRS. A. D. HARRY
Recording Secretary



MR. W. J. STRICKLAND
Treasurer

Southeast Convention Annual Meeting Held

The Eighth Annual Sessions of the Southeast Convention were held at the First Congregational Christian Church in Andalusia, Alabama, April 2-3.

The sessions were attended by more than 150 delegates and visitors who filled the pews of the attractive red brick church.

Those in attendance heard Dr. Truman B. Douglass, Executive Vice-President of the Board of Home Missions, appeal to the churches to support the Negro students in the recent wave of protests against racial discrimination.

"The world cannot survive a perpetuation of inter-racial injustice and an intensification of inter-racial strife," he said.

"The right to protest by word and deed against established authority is one of the most basic of liberties," he stated, calling on the churches to "renew and deepen" their commitment to liberty, which is an essential part of the Christian creed.

Dr. Douglass urged that the church recover "a true understanding of the nature of the church itself."

"One of the first things to be said is that in the church I do not choose my brother. In the church my brother is given to me." Dr. Douglass said the church calls upon its members to love "the persons whom they may not like."

Dr. Douglass also attacked those who supported the Air Force in its issuance of the training manual in which serious charges were made against the National Council of Churches and other Protestant groups. He charged this was a move to attempt to silence the church.

The Convention elected the Rev. W. Raymond Berry, pastor of United Church, LaGrange, Ga., as moderator. A layman of the Birmingham church, Mr. Allen G. Saunders, was chosen moderator-elect. Mrs. A. D. Harry was elected recording secretary, and Mr. W. J. Strickland as treasurer.

The First Church and Antioch Church of Andalusia were co-hosts to the annual meeting.

Rev. Guy L. Colbert, moderator, presided over the sessions in which the Christian Higher Education Fund goal of \$25,000 was re-affirmed.

Mr. R. G. Obrecht, loyal layman in the Chattanooga Church and new president of the Church Builders Club, recently had the honor of being made the High Priest of the Keystone Chapter of the Royal Arch Masons of Chattanooga and was anointed into the Order of High Priesthood of Tennessee in a recent Masonic ceremony.

DATE CHANGES: The Kentucky-Tennessee Summer Conference plans have been changed. Two conferences will be held and both will be at the Methodist Camp near Crossville, Tenn.: Senior High — June 26 - July 2; Junior High — July 17 - 23. The Women's Fellowship Retreat will be held at the camp on July 20.